



3 1761 11728119 6



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761117281196>

CAZON
21
-80A52



Ontario

Chairman:
J. Stefan Dupré, Ph.D.
Commissioners:
J. Fraser Mustard, M.D.
Robert Uffen, Ph.D., P.Eng., F.R.S.C.
Director of Research:
Donald Dewees, Ph.D.
Legal Counsel:
John I. Laskin, LL.B.
Executive Co-ordinator:
Linda Kahn, M.P.A.

Royal Commission on Matters of Health
and Safety Arising from the Use of
Asbestos in Ontario

180 Dundas Street West
22nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1Z8
416/965-1885

No: 83-1

January 1983

NEWSLETTER
2

1. Royal Commission on Asbestos -- Public Hearings

The Royal Commission on Asbestos will be conducting a final hearing on Friday, January 28th, 1983, commencing at 9:30 a.m. This hearing will take place in Hearing Room 3, 21st floor, 180 Dundas Street West (second block east of University Avenue, St. Patrick subway station).

The purpose of this hearing is to give all parties with standing before the Commission at its formal Phase II and IV hearings the opportunity to make final oral submissions. Each party making an oral presentation is required to file a written statement of the points it intends to argue in advance of the hearing.

The presenters currently scheduled to appear are:

Tim Hardy	on behalf of the Asbestos Information Association/ North America
David Starkman	on behalf of the Asbestos Victims of Ontario
Daniel Ublansky	on behalf of the Energy and Chemical Workers Union
Thomas Lederer	on behalf of the Government of Ontario
Nick McCombie	on behalf of Injured Workers' Consultants
Linda Jolley	on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Labour
Philippe Casgrain	on behalf of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association

Please note that, as always, this will be an open public hearing.



2. Royal Commission on Asbestos -- Research

The Royal Commission on Asbestos has now published nine research papers. Studies No. 1 to 6 inclusive were described in Newsletter No. 82-2, in April 1982. Studies No. 7 and 8 were described in Newsletter No. 82-4, in October 1982. Study No. 9 is outlined below. Please note that all of these studies were commissioned by the Royal Commission on Asbestos, but that the views expressed therein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Commission or its staff.

Study No. 9 MEASUREMENT OF ASBESTOS FIBRE CONCENTRATIONS IN
 WORKPLACE ATMOSPHERES (69 pages)
 by Eric J. Chatfield

Dr. Eric J. Chatfield, the head of the Electron Optical Laboratory at the Ontario Research Foundation, reviews and evaluates methods of determining the airborne concentrations of asbestos fibres in fixed workplaces such as mining and milling of asbestos and manufacturing asbestos products. He establishes the basic requirements for an air quality measurement system and considers how the current sampling and analytical methods meet these requirements. Improvements to the current Ontario measurement method are recommended. The impact of future developments on measurement methods is also considered.

The objective of workplace air monitoring is to determine the concentration of respirable asbestos fibres in the air, and to identify which type or types of asbestos are present. Ontario, and most jurisdictions in Canada and other countries, requires that workplace air be drawn through a "membrane filter," after which the filter is examined under an optical microscope and the number of fibres counted. Dr. Chatfield recommends that a number of changes be made in the way the filter is prepared and the fibres counted to improve the accuracy of the measurement method in Ontario.

Because of subjective elements in fibre counting and differences between equipment and practices in different laboratories, a single air sample can yield quite different fibre counts when examined by different people. Thus, one or two samples do not provide an accurate estimate of the worker's true fibre exposure. When the airborne asbestos fibre concentration is low, it is especially difficult to measure the concentration accurately. Dr. Chatfield examines statistical problems that arise when trying to measure low fibre concentrations. He concludes that the membrane filter method cannot accurately measure fibre concentrations of 0.2 fibres/millilitre, which is part of the recently adopted Ontario regulation regarding asbestos.

Some future developments in asbestos measurement are discussed and found promising. However, Dr. Chatfield concludes that the membrane filter method will be the preferred method for the immediate future.

Copies of Commission studies have been lodged at all 56 "full depository" libraries, most of which are public, university, or college libraries located in Ontario. The Commission has a list of these libraries if you wish to check if "your" library is on the circulation list; call collect, 416/965-1885 (or you can simply contact the reference desk of your local library).

The Commission also has copies of the studies on hand in its library room, Suite 2214 at 180 Dundas Street West, for interested readers.

Copies of all studies can be purchased in person at the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario (Telephone: 416/965-1885); or by contacting the Publications Mail Order Service, 880 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N8 (Telephone: 416/965-6015).

Prices for the studies are noted below. (Cheques or money orders are made payable to the Treasurer of Ontario and sent to the Publications Mail Order Service.)

Study No. 1	COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ASBESTOS DANGERS IN THE WORKPLACE by Morley Gunderson and Katherine Swinton (ISBN: 0-7743-6834-9).	\$ 6.50
Study No. 2	WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND ASBESTOS IN ONTARIO by Peter S. Barth (ISBN: 0-7743-7024-6).	\$ 5.50
Study No. 3	POLICY OPTION IN THE REGULATION OF ASBESTOS- RELATED HEALTH HAZARDS by Michael J. Trebilcock and Carolyn J. Tuohy (ISBN: 0-7743-7043-2).	\$10.00
Study No. 4	THE POLITICS OF RISK: THE IDENTIFICATION OF TOXIC AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN CANADA by G. Bruce Doern (ISBN: 0-7743-6960-4).	\$ 4.25
Study No. 5	LIVING WITH CONTRADICTIONS: HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN ONTARIO by G. Bruce Doern, Michael Prince, and Garth McNaughton (ISBN: 0-7743-7056-4).	\$10.00
Study No. 6	WORKER ATTITUDES ABOUT HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THREE ASBESTOS BRAKE MANUFACTURING PLANTS by Sally Luce and Gene Swimmer (ISBN: 0-7743-7057-2).	\$ 5.00
Study No. 7	THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND COST OF CONTROLLING WORKPLACE EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS FIBRES by Gordon M. Bragg (ISBN: 0-7743-7311-3).	\$ 5.50

- | | | |
|-------------|--|---------|
| Study No. 8 | ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS
by Donald J. Pinchin
(ISBN: 0-7743-7323-7). | \$10.00 |
| Study No. 9 | MEASUREMENT OF ASBESTOS FIBRE CONCENTRATIONS IN
WORKPLACE ATMOSPHERES
by Eric J. Chatfield
(ISBN: 0-7743-7777-1). | \$ 2.75 |

Further information on publications should be addressed to Ms. Linda Kahn, Executive Co-ordinator, or Dr. Donald Dewees, Director of Research, Royal Commission on Asbestos, 180 Dundas Street West, 22nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z8 (Telephone: 416/965-1885).

In addition, the Commission now has a limited number of copies of two background papers:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Background Paper No. 1 | A Survey of Asbestos Policies in Canada
with Particular Emphasis on Ontario
by Sandra Glasbeek |
| Background Paper No. 2 | A Review of Four Major Reports on the Health
Hazards of Asbestos
by The Canadian Centre for Occupational
Health and Safety |

Enquiries should be addressed to Linda Kahn at the Commission's office.

